

Dublin, Tuesday, Nov. 28. 1858

Dear Miss Weston - If you were to measure the gratification your welcome letter gave me by my promptness in replying to it you would make a great mistake. You requested particularly to know about George Thompson & my attempt to satisfy you on this point led to a part of the delay, for you know as George unitates Garrison, Garrison & other great people by a profound knowledge of the noble art of penmanship; so much so, indeed, that in his best days he generally but at first any letter he received. Accordingly I got no answer from him - indeed, I hardly expected it - but as I else took the precaution to write to his son in law Mr Chapman (whom I have never seen though we have had some correspondence now & then) I got ^{his} ~~his~~ ^{an} answer that Mr Chapman had read my letter & hoped to dictate an answer soon (this answer has never arrived) but that his hands have not yet recovered them power, although in most other respects he is so far improved that he can walk about, converse, &c. But I need not particularize, as I hope to send you a cutting from a late Liberator which was evidently sent by Chapman for publication & contains much more information than his. That is to say.

I have not written to any of you "farther" this eve
so long as I was uncertain of your exact locality
and when people are moving from place to place they
are hardly at ease enough to be troubled with the
details of such a hasty drawn body as I am, who
had an ~~an~~ uneventful life & have little to tell
that is worth relating. Last June the weather being
fine & the country charming I was tempted to look
an offer for a very pretty place about seven miles
from our own door. The house is old fashioned but
sufficiently large and comfortable for our family. It
is ample supplied with out houses of all kinds &
convenient, thick, narrow, high & pretty & stands in the hollow
centered expanse of about ten or twelve acres
of land beautifully situated at the foot of a moun-
tain ~~at~~ from 1400 feet high & with view of the
sea & of a rich & diversified country. A very
fine garden is close to the house & the ground is
mostly laid out with shade walks & little streams -
all quite pastoral. However although our offer
was accepted & we hoped to be in possession
immediately, six months have nearly elapsed
& we are not then yet owing to some difficulty
about the title by which the owner held part of
the ground. He is guilty as most & although I am
tied to my offer - better of course the better of
the bargain owing to the glorious difficulties &
uncertainties of the law. As we were for a
length of time deluded by promises that in a
few days all would right & all ~~the~~ impediments re-
moved you may imagine that we were kept in
great uncertainty & perplexity. I have at length
given up asking & am resignedly drafting down the

Whence we have been told we about the Kriegs - however they & theirkins best

stream of events. — Then another event of a more
interesting & a far more satisfactory nature has lately
occurred in our family, which has taken up my
time & thoughts a good deal. I mean the marriage
of my sister Maria Waring, whose name is
I doubt not familiar to your sister Caroline as a
steady & generous contributor to the Boston Bazaar
for many years past — indeed since 1840 when she
accompanied a whole troupe of Webb to the Anti-
Slavery Convention in London the first because per-
sonally acquainted with Garrison, Rogers, James
& Quincy Webb, Wendell Phillips & his wife &
many other abolitionists of inferior note & an anti-
slavery sympathy, an intimacy sprang up ~~of~~ by
which nobody has been so much the ~~beneficiary~~ gainer
as myself, & since to it I owe the pleasure of knowing
you, and many others whom I like & respect the more
the longer I know them. My sister Maria is a tender
spirited, conscientious, though child young woman of
forty, whose hair has gone prematurely grey & who
has yet a remarkably youthful & sweet expression of
countenance, which, joined to an honest & generous disposi-
tion, has earned her the respect & good will of every
one who knows her or knows of her — although she
of a retiring disposition has very few intimates. Her
husband is a medical practitioner (Dr. James George Palmer)
somewhat though not much older than herself, and as

as a man much better more generally known, &
just as much respected as she is. Although the
result of this marriage will be that she will be known
by the Quakers for marrying, the rest of the Society, &
for marrying in a manner contrary to their rules,
although a majority of her own relations are rigid
Quakers, I have not heard of a single objection but
on the contrary general congratulation, & wishes
for her happiness - a circumstance so extraordinary
that I have never heard of the like before. Indeed I
never knew of a marriage so generally approved of
by all who knew of it. You will excuse this piece
of family gossip partly because it is ^{so} very interesting
to me that I can't refrain telling you of it partly
that the lady has done more for the cause with
which your family is identified, & according to her
knowledge than any other contributor of our anti-slavery
cause on this side of the Atlantic.

Your sister has given me of course the news I left
you - but the little news came & only mentioned the
matter was to say that I hear wrongs, no grumble
at the marriage for I know what a hardworking woman
she is & ~~is~~ ^{so} much like the flywheel of a steam engine
that if she stands still the whole economy will stand
still the president is paralyzed also. I am confident that
I have his good wishes & friendly remonstrance. Other
presumption is on itself a great pleasure

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About five months since my son Richard - my second son, about 23 years old, was seized with a determination to gratify a desire to which he has entertained from childhood to visit Australia and accordingly engaged his passage, & gave him enough to bring him home in case he wished to return speedily & off he started in the "Morning Light" a very fine powerful vessel which was chosen for the voyage by his elder brother who has been in Australia for nearly two years & is now my chief assistant in my business. He did not I mean Richard not set off in search of health and not with any definite purpose to seek his fortune - but just to see what his posterity the world. Why any body should go to such a country as a Colony English & such a matter of fact country as a Colony English for such a purpose I don't understand. I would say for such a purpose I don't understand. I would much rather go somewhere else - but there is no country for taste & the probable emigration is that it is a kind of hellish which sends the youth to foreign parts which their fathers & their fathers had no more notion of going than they had of going to the moon. We have not heard from him since he left us, except that when he was about to leave and the ship was spoken with. However in about a fortnight we hope for a letter informing us of his arrival. -

I write in a back drawing room - through the post day down I hear the voices of some young ladies called in - whom I may or may not tell you are nearest descendants of Judge Fell, one of the greatest benefactors of the common wealth, & English pride in the time of the Commonwealth. His wife after his death married George Fox, the friend of Quakerism. She was a fine old lady, & died 14th the 1st of January in the year 1709, aged 88. These

Mr. Shackleton has another feather in their cap. for their great-great grandfather Abraham Shackleton was the teacher or tutor of the most famous of political philosophers, Edmund Burke, at Ballitore where their father still lives - and their great grandfather Richard was Burke's schoolfellow, correspondent & lifelong friend as long as he lived.

As to how Chapman's project of substituting a money collection for the Boston Bazaar although there is no doubt that the majority of persons is opposed to it, I think it likely it will be successful in raising more money this year at least than the Bazaar would have brought in - But if it does, it will have been at the cost of great Lenox and its labor to you & the ladies, whose health & strength are too precious to the cause to be rashly risked - & it may be difficult to continue such exertions in future. As I correspond with some who take different views in this subject I know that the result is looked on by one side as at least a very doubtful experiment. However the cause is not now indebted to any of its supporters than to Mrs Chapman and the ability, energy & zeal which have already affected so much may be trusted to carry out her plan to a successful issue. I am sorry to find that owing to Mrs Phillips failing health her husband is obliged to withdraw himself almost entirely from active efforts and that many others of the chief supporters have been suffering from ~~the~~ the same cause. I understand that S. J. May may be shortly back at his in Italy when he will not be long in finding you out.

The late and was a fine sight here when the clouds would allow us to see it. But you know we are in a world, mostly sky - and we have not above a dozen days in the whole year such as are common in the United States, or in Rome. What a grand object it must have been in the blue Italian sky.

Last evening some friends were here, each with a number of stereoscopes given of Rome peculiar to his own collection - I have a goodly number too, and then I had a glimpse of many localities that have an interest for me greater than for any of the company. I think they were nearly all those of the London stereos in company and of an excellence which would be difficult to surpass. For buildings, ruins & long galleries nothing can surpass the wonderful fidelity of the stereoscope. Landscapes want the indispensable charm of colors & tho. the perspective that pictures are admirable the dry or dead tint is a poor substitute for real & speckled bower of nature.

How very much you will enjoy the opportunity of intercourse with Miss Browning, the friend of poetry of any age - altho. I wish for her own sake & for mine that she would polish & somewhat more that she would take some pains to clarify her meaning. Her words are full a mass of her, & I can a particular regard & respect for her on this account. Little I regard & respect for her as a much more wonderful & as a nobler & a much greater woman.

When Miss Hunt appears on your horizon I
will be obnoxious. You telling her that I am her
perpetual debtor for her kindness in Florence.
If she has been my sister she could not have
been more so. I thank her affection & guidance
I could not have enjoyed her visit to the
City of Florence one half so much had I not had
such a pleasant recollection of that time.

I am glad you say the Athenaeum should
be glad to have of me could wish for a political
paper occasionally & whether I could find
its way to you and France or how it should
be sent. All my papers of any note except
those which are merely Romish in their sym-
pathies & in Servile esteem of Z. H. are
full of comments on the Trial & condemnation
of Count Montalembert. His sentence to life
without imprisonment & his paper from prison
are extracts which nobody in England would
imagine was amenable to any penalty. The
older I grow the more I am thankful for my
British citizenship. Had it not been for that
the Democrats are so thoroughly defeated for
the present. But what will come of it?
for I hope little from Britain for our cause.

But I must stop. I hope you will all take
this as my solicitation & believe me ever
Yours affectionately & gratefully

Rich D Webb